

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on January 11, 2007. Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7 and 14 being in independent form. By this Amendment document, Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in paragraph [0080] and FIG. 4 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely Claims 1-18 are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the claims of this application are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Kagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,910,118) in view of Gooch (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174710). Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gooch in view of Kagawa et al.

Claims -1-6

Amended independent Claim 1 describes a fixed length data search device including, *inter alia*, “a hash operation means for operating and outputting multiple entry data corresponding to a hash value of an inputted fixed length datum”. Emphasis added.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Kagawa et al., Gooch or the combination thereof disclose or suggest the “multiple entry data corresponding to a hash value” recited in Claim 1. In contrast, Kagawa et al and Gooch are directed to a hash algorithm having only one data corresponding to only one hashed value. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable

over Kagawa et al., Gooch or the combination thereof Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the reason that independent Claim 1 is patentable, as discussed hereinabove. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 14-18

Independent Claim 14 describes a method of searching fixed length data including, *inter alia*, the steps of “performing hash operation said hash operation outputting a hash value of inputted fixed length data, wherein said hash value includes multiple entry data”. Emphasis added.

As discussed hereinabove with respect to Claim 1, Kagawa et al., Gooch, and the combination thereof fail to disclose or suggest the “hash value includes multiple entry data” recited in Applicant’s claims. Accordingly, Claim 14 is believed to be patentable over Kagawa et al., Gooch or the combination thereof Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 13-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 14 and are therefore patentable for at least the reason that independent Claim 14 is patentable, as discussed hereinabove. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 7-13

Claims 7 and 13 describe a “a hash operation means, said hash operation means using two types of hash functions to determine a first and second hash values of an inputted fixed

length datum wherein said first and second hash values includes multiple entry data," which, as discussed hereinabove with respect to Claims 1 and 14, is not disclosed or suggested in the combination of Gooch and Kagawa et al. Accordingly, Claims 7-13 are believed to be patentable over Kagawa et al., Gooch and the combination thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, she is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa Suazo Yaghmour
Reg. No. 56,753
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: (845) 892-9701

International Business Machines Corporation
D/18G, B/321, Zip 482
2070 Route 52
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Phone: (845) 892-9701
Fax: (845) 892-6363